Committee to examine grid collapse

*391. SHRIMATI SHOBHANA BHARTIA:††
SHRIMATI MOHSINA KIDWAI:

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether, in view of the recent grid collapse, the Central Government has set up a Committee to come up with preventive measures to save cities from being plunged into darkness due to tripping of power carrying lines, by both man-made and natural causes;

(b) if so, the details thereof and by when the Committee is likely to submit its report to Government;

(c) whether the reasons for grid collapse have been identified and if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the steps taken by Government to avoid recurrence of such incidents in future?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SHINDE): (a) to (d) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) to (d) A Committee has been set up by the Central Electricity Authority on 13th March, 2008 to inquire into the partial grid disturbances which occurred in the Northern Region on 7th and 9th March, 2008. The main reason for trippings of transmission lines *prima facie* was the unusual weather pattern and pollution in the Region. Unprecedented fog and high humidity, coupled with high levels of pollution, further aggravated by the absence of winter rains resulted in the unprecedented trippings of transmission lines. The prevailing humidity level of above 90%, at that time being far above the critical level of 75%, was one of the major causes of the trippings. As an immediate measure, physical cleaning of insulators in the worst affected and most vulnerable areas was initiated to avoid recurrence of the incident during the ensuing period. The report is to be submitted by the Committee within two months. Remedial measures to avoid reoccurrence of such incidents, as suggested by the Committee, would be duly considered by the Government for implementation.

SHRIMATI SHOBHANA BHARTIA: Sir, the Minister in his reply has said that grid disturbances have happened largely due to weather conditions. Sir, such vagaries are not unusual in our part of the world and in the rest of the world. Sir, what I would like to ask the hon. Minister is realising that these kinds of weather fluctuations happen, have we looked at the infrastructure? Sir, whereas we have been using ceramic or porcelain insulators which are not that resistant, has any detailed analysis been undertaken to see the nature of pollutants and then, have they thought of upgrading to polymer insulators which will withhold weather fluctuations a little better?

SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SHINDE: It has already been decided to go for polymer insulators and we are switching from the conventional insulators to polymer insulators now at vulnerable places in NCR.

SHRIMATI SHOBHANA BHARTIA: By when would that be done?

SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SHINDE: Cleaning has already been started on the day these disturbances have taken place. Also on the day, the incident had taken place on 9th, meeting was held and immediately a view was taken, the replacement was already done in some

††The question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Shrimati Shobhana Bhartia.

places at the vulnerable lines and even after that, instructions were given to go for cleaning quickly and we have instructed particularly in Haryana, Uttar Pradesh and nearby Delhi areas that this will have to be done and instructions have been given.

SHRIMATI SHOBHANA BHARTIA: My second supplementary is that grid disturbances also happen largely because of some States or utilities drawing more power than the allocated share. Sir, overall we have a bit of power shortage and the Ninth and the Tenth Plans have not fulfilled the commitments that they were supposed to. Drawing on the experiences of these two Plans, would the hon. Minister like to tell us what were the major reasons why we could not augment power as we were supposed to and going forward, Sir, for the Eleventh Plan what measures is the Government planning to take up so that the targets that they have put for themselves are realistic and are met.

SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SHINDE: Sir, today, in the second question (No. 382) elaborate answers have been given. Considering the fact that less addition in installed capacity was there during the Eighth, Ninth and Tenth Plan periods, we have decided, in the Eleventh Plan, to install a capacity of 78,577 MW plus about 11,500 MW from captive generation. We have lost in all the three Plans; — the answer will be very lengthy — the Eighth, Ninth and Tenth Plans, so, we have done a capacity addition of 56,000 MW and in the Eleventh Plan, we are doing more than 83,000 MW. As on date, our installed capacity is 1,43,061 MW. This House will appreciate the way in which measures have been taken in the last two years. And, I am happy to inform this House that within these two years nearly 16,500 MW capacity has been added which was done never before in the history of the country.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Question Hour is over.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO STARRED QUESTIONS

Cost for generation of solar energy

*381. SHRI RAJNITI PRASAD: Will the Minister of NEW AND RENEWABLE ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) the cost per MW for generation of solar energy; and

(b) the steps Government is taking to make solar energy more cost effective?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH):(a) Solar energy can be harnessed through two routes namely; (i) solar photovoltaic for direct electricity generation and (ii) solar thermal for heating, cooling and power generation.

Solar photovoltaic cells convert light in to electricity. A number of solar photovoltaic cells are joined to make a solar photovoltaic (SPV) module. SPV modules and interface electronics are used in a solar photovoltaic power generating system to harness solar energy for electricity generation. Concentrating solar thermal collectors are used to convert solar energy in to steam, which in turn is used in conventional turbines for power generation.